surplus of about Rs. 17,000 crores during 1998-99;

(b) whether this surplus will be used to clear the dues owed by Government to oil companies thus wiping out the deficit in the oil pool account;

(c) whether a substantial part of the surplus is likely to be taken away by the Finance Ministry to keep the fiscal deficit within manageable limits; and

(d) what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) With a view to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account and to enable the Oil Companies to maintain uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products in the country, the Government announced a comprehensive package on September 1, 1997. To end the oil pool deficit, the Government had decided that part of the liabilities of the Oil Coordination Committee to the Oil Companies shall be cleared through issue of Speical Government Bonds by making one time payment to the Oil Companies. Consequently, "10.5% Oil Companies (Non-Transferable) Special Government Bonds 2005" totaling to Rs. 12,984 crores were issued effective 02.03.98. Out of these bonds issued, an amount of Rs. 6382 crores has been sanctioned for redemption of Bonds. Thereafter, "On Account" payments of Rs. 1646 crores have been made till 28.2.99.

(c) and (d) The amount generated in the Oil Pool has been used in 1998-99 for redemption and debt servicing of the speical securities issued to oil companies in lieu of their outstanding claims under APM and not for bridging the fiscal deficit.

डीजल का आयात

1799. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार देश में डीजल की आपूर्ति करने के लिए किन-किन देशों से डीजल आयात करती है;

(ख) गत तीन माहों के दौरान आयातित डीजल का प्रतिमाह ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि यह आयातित डीजल सबसे घटिया किस्म का है, यदि हां, तो उक्त डीजल किस देश से मंगवाया जाता है;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने उस देश से डीजल की गुणवत्ता के संबंध में शिकायत की है, जहां से ऐसा डीजल आयात किया जाता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या परिणाम निकला और सरकार ने उस देश के डीजल का आयात रोकने और अच्छी गुणवत्ता वाले डीजल का आयात करने हेतु क्या निर्णय लिया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) हमारे अधिकांश डीजल आयात मध्य पूर्वी देशों से होते हैं, जबकि डीजल की कुछ मात्रायें दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया से भी आती हैं।

(ख) अक्तूबर-दिसम्बर, 1998 के दौरान डीजल के माहवार आयात निम्नवत् हैं: —

(आंकड़े "000" मीट्रिक टन में)

माह	गैस तेल 1 प्रतिशत गंधकयुक्त	गैस तेल 0.25 प्रतिशत गंधकयुक्त
अक्तूबर, 1998	727.60	183.74
नवम्बर, 1998	552.25	132.45
दिसम्बर, 1998	324.98	1777.49

(ग) से (ङ) डीजल आयात अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर स्वीकृत गुणवत्ता के अनुरूप प्रमाणित अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आपूर्तिकताओं से किए जाते हैं। संविदागत शर्त के अन्तर्गत गुणवत्ता का सख्ती से अनुपालन करने के लिए व्यवस्था है और यह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ख्याति प्राप्त स्वतंत्र निरीक्षकों द्वारा प्रमाणित की जाती है।

Petrol Pumps on the National Highways of Andhra Pradesh

1800. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps functioning on all the National and State Highways separately in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the criteria for opening of petrol pumps on National/State Highways in the country;

(c) whether Government have assessed the feasibility and requirements for further opening of petrol pumps on National/State Highways in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor in view of dense increase in traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There are 362 and 229 retail outlets in operation on the National and State Highways respecitively in Andhra Pradesh. Oil Industry follow the "Volume-Distance" norms for setting up retail outlet dealerships on State and National Highways. The norms are as follows:

(i) The combined thruput per retail outlet within 15 KM (on either side) of the proposed retail outlet should exceed 80 Kilo litres (KL) per month.

(ii) The minimum expected sale during the second year of operation should be:

(a) In the case of—50 KL per month. Lone HSD outlet

(b) In the case of—MS -5 KL per month Combined MS/HSD outlet —HSD -50 KL per month

(c) and (d) In order to meet the increased demand, 50 more retail outlet dealerships have been included in the Retail Outlet Marketing Plan 1996—98 and R.O. Supplementary Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Andhra Pradesh.

Diversified Projects by Oil Companies

1801. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC and ONGC propose to float diversified projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the background for floating such joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IOC and ONGC propose to float Joint Ventures in hydrocarbon and related business in India and abroad. The strategic alliance at varioius levels of operation between the two organisations is intended to held shaping the future strategy to compete globally and at the same time ensuring optimum momentum and securing business world-wide to achieve sustained growth.

Ouster of IOC and BPCL from Petronet LNG

1802. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ousted the Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation from Petronet LNG;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of these two Corporations in this regard?